

# OCRA ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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## OCRA ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### I. INTRODUCTION

2022 has been a very active year for your faithful volunteers at OCRA. Set out below is OCRA's 2022 Report on this year's activities, from building a new website; navigating the special measures for Afghan refugees so we could sponsor Afghans; welcoming and settling our December 2021 newcomers; raising funds and recruiting volunteers for our Afghan sponsorships; to this month's preparations for new arrivals in January 2023. We have kept busy!

### II. NEW WEBSITE!

In the depths of last year's winter, OCRA's new website, at [www.ottawacentrerefugeeaction.ca](http://www.ottawacentrerefugeeaction.ca), was built. Thanks go to Dougald Brown and Katey Thompson for the work putting the website together, and to Gerry Cooney, Rabah Al Helfi and Pat Wilson for providing much content. A new feature planned for 2023 is a section on how our OCRA newcomers are doing, which is pre-viewed below. Happy browsing, we hope you enjoy it.

### III. AFGHAN REFUGEE SPONSORSHIPS – 2022 – 2023

During 2022, OCRA was able to complete sponsorship applications for 4 groups (6 applications) during 2022 and are fundraising for an additional 2 groups (6 applications), described below. You can read about OCRA's take on the government's promise to bring 40,000 Afghan refugees, as well as our suggestions to improve the process, [here](#).

It was quite a journey to identify how best to sponsor Afghans. For example, Omar, the civil engineer student, applied to come to Canada as a student after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan (August 2021), but was rejected in December 2021 because IRCC doubted his willingness to return to Afghanistan after his studies. So, we started a refugee application for him. The government announced the Operation Afghan Safety program to expedite Afghan refugee sponsorships in late 2021, but capped the spaces allocated to the program that were given to each Sponsorship Agreement Holder. It was a "Hunger Games" hunt to find a SAH with these spaces, or one willing to ask for OAS spaces on an ad hoc basis. We were able to find the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa to help us and were approved as a Constituent Group for refugee sponsorships by them in July 2022.

Since then we held two terrific fundraising events (with [The Merry Dairy](#) in September, and [Lynn Miles](#) in October); obtained help from the [Cybec Foundation](#) in Australia; fundraised some more, and completed the applications described in item 2 below. **And now we are fundraising to bring a doctor group and a human rights group to Canada, described in Item 1 below.**

**OCRA gives a huge shout-out** to those who have stepped forward to either volunteer or donate to support our effort to bring these groups to Canada. Many responded, we were able to gather new volunteers from our fundraising events, and without this mid-year level of support, we would not have been able to proceed with the sponsorships. We hope that readers will consider a donation to help us get the groups described below to safety here.

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### 1. Afghan Refugees – Sponsorships That Need Funding

We are fundraising for two groups:

#### (a) Afghan Doctor Group / Civil Engineer

This is a family of doctors plus their parents. The doctors are:

- A family of four, the parents (Marwa and Irfanullah) worked in women's reproductive health and in OB/GYN and Orthopedics specialties, and
- A young single doctor (Safa) specializing in reproductive health and rescue of women facing severe gender-based violence.

All three faced severe warnings and threats before the Taliban takeover in August 2021. All three were issued summons to stop working by the Taliban after the takeover. In December 2021 Safa faced life-threatening danger after having to run a checkpoint where she would have been arrested, sitting next to a colleague who was shot in the escape car as they fled.

Marwa was "visited" constantly and forcefully by the neighbourhood checkpoint to make sure she had not left the house; she could not see her patients and they could not see her. The Taliban security forces issued arrest summons against them again.

In December 2021 Irfanullah's clinic near his house was bombed while he and his colleagues were in it; he was then shot returning home from the clinic on January 6, 2022, shattering his femur and requiring hospitalization for severe hemorrhage. In March 2022, his clinic was bombed again with significant damage to the building. He and Marwa fled with their baby to Pakistan in May 2022. Safa fled the following month.

Their father, a civil engineer who worked for UNOPS for over 20 years was issued an arrest warrant in November 2021 for his work with "foreign spies" and began the necessary moves to safe houses to stay ahead of the Taliban security forces. He felt it his duty to make sure his children got to safety outside Afghanistan before he too could leave. His wife endured a terrifying Taliban house search where they threatened to find and kill the foreign spies and enemies of our people. They were able to securely leave in a way that avoided detection in November 2022 and made it to Pakistan to join their children that month.

This group has been accepted for expedited processing under the Operation Afghan Safety stream. We cannot file their applications, until we have secured the \$73.6K in funding needed for this group as a whole.

We need to raise **\$15,000** to complete this funding.  
To contribute to this sponsorship:

- You can donate by cheque made out to "**The Incorporated Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa**" and delivered to 164 Glebe Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1S 2C5. Please specify "**OCRA – Afghan Sponsorships**" on the description line. We will deliver cheques to the Diocese. A tax receipt will be mailed to the address on the cheque by the Anglican Diocese.
- You can donate online at the [Anglican Diocese of Ottawa Canada Helps Page](#). Scroll down the AAA Refugee Ministry Menu to **OTTAWA CENTRE REFUGEE ACTION – Afghan Sponsorships** to fill out your donation. A tax receipt will be issued automatically. Please note that Canada Helps deducts 4% from each donation for its fees.

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### (b) Afghan Human Rights Defenders

This family is made up of a well-known human rights advocate, Dr. H., his spouse and three children, plus his mother and sister.

Dr. H. trained as a medical doctor and first worked in public health. He later worked with Canada and its allies on local governance, democracy building and peace visioning in high-risk locations such as Kandahar. His sister Nadia worked with international NGOs, as gender adviser to the Lower House of the National Assembly of Afghanistan, and as refugee co-ordinator to the Afghan government National Security office. Both were targeted before the Taliban takeover for their association with Canada and “foreign interests”.

Dr. H was in immediate danger when the Taliban takeover occurred and had to flee within days to avoid arrest, detention and likely death. This family is in Pakistan, has been accepted under the Operation Afghan Safety stream for expedited processing. We cannot file this application with the government until full funding of \$66,100 has been raised.

We need to raise **\$8,100** to complete this funding.  
To contribute to this sponsorship:

- Cheques can be written to “**The Incorporated Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa**” and delivered to OCRA at 164 Glebe Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1S 2C5. Please specify “**OCRA – Habibi**” for the Afghan Human Rights Defender Family on the description line. We will deliver cheques to the Diocese. A tax receipt will be mailed to the address on the cheque by the Anglican Diocese.
- You can donate online at the [Anglican Diocese of Ottawa Canada Helps Page](#). Scroll down the AAA Refugee Ministry Menu to **Ottawa Centre Refugee Action - Habibi Sponsorship** to fill out your donation. A tax receipt will be issued automatically. Please note Canada Helps now deducts 4% from all donations.

## 2. Afghan Refugees – Sponsorships Filed with IRCC

We successfully raised the funds and gathered the volunteers for 4 groups (6 applications) and have filed these applications with IRCC through the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa as Sponsorship Agreement Holder:

### (a) Law Professor and Family

The parents and their 3 daughters, aged 13, 22, and 27, have been in Pakistan since shortly after the fall of the Afghan government. The father was a law professor at Kabul University and taught international institutions and human rights. He also worked for the Afghan government in various legal advisory roles and was in the Afghan cabinet as Minister of Disaster Management.

The oldest daughter was pursuing a Master of Law degree when the government fell. The 22-year-old was pursuing a psychology degree. This family was immediately targeted by the Taliban and their house was ransacked after the government fell. They escaped to Pakistan shortly after the fall of Kabul.

They have very limited resources and currently live in difficult conditions as Pakistan does not provide rations or assistance. They cannot work or go to school in Pakistan, are liable to deportation for having crossed the border without a visa and have no path to permanent residency or citizenship.

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We completed the family's sponsorship applications and were successful in having them expedited under the "Operation Afghan Safety" stream established by IRCC. The applications were submitted to IRCC on September 16th, 2022. The sponsors' application to sponsor was approved in September, and the refugee determination now needs to be made by the Canadian Embassy visa office in Islamabad, Pakistan.

A huge round of thanks goes to the **OCRA volunteers Cathy Wilcox, Barb Thompson, Doug Daniels, Kathy Stewart and Hana Pika** who are helping each member of this family with English conversation and writing as they wait to be processed by the Canadian visa office in Islamabad. These sessions are hugely enjoyed by the family members and volunteers alike!

### **(a) Civil Engineering Student**

Omar, age 22, has a civil engineering degree and was pursuing further studies in India when the Taliban overthrew the Afghan government. He is unable to return to Afghanistan as his father had worked with the UN and NATO and his family is under constant threat. While he was living in Afghanistan, Omar worked with the Afghanistan Rehabilitation and Development Agency, which supported women's education programs and medical programs for LGBTQ. Omar has no

path to permanent residence or citizenship in India and is not permitted to work or attend school.

We completed a sponsorship application and were successful in getting it expedited through the "Operation Afghan Safety" process. The application has been submitted to IRCC and the sponsor's application to sponsor was approved in August 2022. The next step is the refugee determination by a Canadian Embassy visa office in India, which we hope will also be expedited.

### **(b) Young Woman's Leader**

This young woman (Suraya), age 20, was forced to flee with her family to Iran when the Taliban took over because her father had been engaged in legal work for international agencies. With OCRA's help, this sponsorship was organized and funded by a group of young people in Ottawa, all of whom are themselves former refugees.

We were successful in having the application expedited under the "Operation Afghan Safety" process. The application to sponsor was approved in November 2022 and we are awaiting refugee determination by the Canadian Embassy visa office in Ankara. **The group of young people who got together to sponsor Suraya deserve huge credit.** They are all under age 22, are eager and enthusiastic, and have put forward the funding for the sponsorship at the beginning of their job searches and careers. As former refugees they will have the experience of being a newcomer in Canada to help them with this settlement.

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### (c) TV Broadcast Journalist and Family

This Hazara family is now in Pakistan. They fled just ahead of a Taliban arrest warrant issued against both husband and wife. The husband was a prominent TV journalist and talk show host. His station was immediately banned by the Taliban after the takeover and the search was on for him as a well-known host. His wife was a legal rights writer in a well-known women's magazine, also banned with a warning that all its writers should be stoned to death for their heretical writings and "corruption of women". They continue to live in fear.

OCRA is working with an Australian group to help get this family to Canada and received generous funding from the Cybec Foundation in Australia to finance the sponsorship. The sponsorship application was submitted and approved in November 2022, and we are awaiting a refugee determination by the visa office in Islamabad.

## IV. NEW ARRIVALS 2021- JANUARY 2023

### 1. Badrieh Othman Agha and Family – Arrived December 14, 2021

In December 2021, OCRA welcomed Badrieh Othman Agha and her three children Hussen, Hanin and Faraj Aljared, Syrian refugees by way of Jordan, after a 3-year, 9-month wait due to pandemic delays. OCRA was able to secure housing for Badrieh and family right next door to her brother Osama in Centretown West at an affordable rate. This has enabled the family to get immediate help when needed and to be able to visit with ease. Badrieh's family in Ottawa sourced much of the furniture needed for their apartment and Helping with Furniture supplemented with a few vanfuls of additional furniture and household items to fully equip their apartment.

Young Faraj came to Canada having suffered seizures in Jordan thought to be epilepsy. The OCRA network was able to get Faraj assessed quickly, including an MRI, and determine he did not have epilepsy. Faraj's seizures were suffered at school and home in Jordan and then started to abate and disappear after he got to Canada. The family thinks now that he had a severe reaction to the stress of school in Jordan and to their flight to Jordan from Syria, which took place after bombings and a frightening journey to reach the border when he was just 4 years old.

Faraj was enrolled at Featherstone Public School in January 2022 and for the first time in his life, said "I love school"! He made friends, played soccer and has moved on to Ridgemont High School, which he



*Badrieh and Hanin (centre) at the Ottawa airport on December 15, 2022, flanked by family members and settled OCRA refugees Nour Karneeb and Islam Othman Agha.*

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says is “the best!” He also shows real promise when skating and spent a lot of time in the summer exploring Ottawa by bike with his cousin Osama Agha.

Hussen Aljared, age 25 when he arrived, takes the lead in his family for many things because of the death of the children’s father in Syria, before they left for Jordan. Hussen is an energetic young man, practices English with determination (kudos to **Doug Daniels** for helping Hussen with English practice!), is enrolled at the Adult High School so he can get his Ontario high school diploma and is working in food services at Isabella Pizza (a great place that employs a number of our OCRA newcomers!) to bring money to the household.

Hussen was recently interviewed by CFRA radio with host Vassy Kapelos, on his one- year anniversary in Canada. He says he is “full of joy” about coming to Canada. Hussen is proud to have been able to buy a secondhand car so the family can independently get to their appointments and do their shopping and other errands.

Hanin Aljared turned 18 a couple of months after arriving in Canada, has practiced English (thanks to **Hana Pika** for her English conversation sessions with Hanin – Hanin says she “was really, really helped by Hana” to improve her English speaking and reading.). She is enrolled at Glebe Collegiate to supplement her high school credits and get an Ontario high school degree. Hanin is also working in food services to supplement the family’s income.

Badrieh, their mother, is immensely grateful and happy to have been re-united with her family in Ottawa. As a single mom she has struggled for support but brings a cheery disposition that is reflected in her children. Badrieh is enrolled in English classes at Level 3 after pandemic restrictions limited class time last year. She has her G1, loves the ESL school and wants to improve her English so she can find work or start a small business.

OCRA sincerely thanks the **Ferme Reveuse Farm** in Ottawa, who very generously supplied Badrieh and family with fresh chicken, eggs and spaetzle for 6 months during their first year in Canada!

### **2. Farhani Family to Arrive Mid- January!**

This family, from Iran, is currently in Australia. The family survived a harrowing boat trip to Australia after fleeing torture in Iran, only to find that the Australian government just weeks earlier had declared that no arrival by boat would ever be permitted to settle in Australia. They have endured locked and community detention since 2013.

[OCRA is working with an Australian refugee support group](#) on this sponsorship, which went to the United Church of Canada in March 2021. The application was filed with the government in September 2021, the earliest date “application space” became available.

The sponsors’ application to sponsor was approved in January 2022. The family was interviewed by the Visa Office at the Canadian Embassy in March 2022 and has now been advised by IOM they will travel to Canada on January 16, 2023! We are awaiting the NAT (Notice of Arrival) next.

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An apartment in Centretown Ottawa has been secured for the family with CCOC, a reputable non-profit affordable housing provider in Ottawa that is near schools, transit, parks and recreation. The settlement group is up and running and gathering clothing and household goods as I write!

The parents, teen daughter, 10-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter are hugely relieved and excited, but also very nervous about coming to Canada. Our volunteers are ready to go to help the family adjust and hopefully thrive in Canada. It is always very exciting when an OCRA family arrives in Ottawa, and this family has been eagerly awaited!

### **3. Young Woman from Syria, in Lebanon, to Arrive January 24, 2022!**

OCRA and an Ottawa family will welcome Anaam from Syria, who has been living in fear in Lebanon, where she has endured assaults and very serious gender-based violence. She is the victim of domestic abuse and is on her own in circumstances where there are significant dangers for young refugee women. We were successful in getting her application expedited by the Canadian visa office in Beirut to ensure she can be brought to safety and reunite with her family in Ottawa.

This application was sent to the United Church of Canada in November 2020 and was filed with the government in September 2021, the earliest that “application space” became available. Our sponsorship was approved on March 15, 2022, and the refugee application was sent to the Canadian Embassy in Beirut. Anaam was interviewed in August 2022 and will travel and arrive in Ottawa on January 24, 2023. Both Anaam and her Ottawa family are overjoyed at this result.

### **V. OTHER SPONSORSHIP APPLICATIONS - OCRA has not forgotten about Syrian refugees!**

We have 6 other applications in progress, at Sponsorship Agreement Holders waiting for a space at IRCC, or submitted and waiting for processing by the government. All of these are for Syrian refugee families in Jordan, Turkey or Lebanon.

#### **1. Family of 5 from Syria, currently in Turkey**

OCRA FSG3 members are sponsoring the sister and family of Amer Al Halak. Amer’s sister and husband have 3 children, and are currently in Turkey, where conditions have deteriorated over the course of the pandemic. This application went to the United Church of Canada in November 2020. The government approved the sponsors’ application to sponsor in November 2021. The second part of the application – the application for refugee determination – was referred by the government to the Canadian Embassy in Turkey in November 2021. This application has been held up in Turkey, along with many others, as processing times have increased substantially. OCRA members are seeking help from our local MP’s office to get the visa processing going for this family.



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### **2. Family of 6 from Syria, currently in Jordan**

OCRA is assisting with this application for a family of 6 from Syria, now in Jordan, where conditions have become worse for refugees. The Dad lost his employment in 2021 because his employer would no longer pay the large fees for refugee work permits. Their rations from UNHCR and other charities have been reduced, and the Dad has been forced into covert work to feed the family. The application for this family was sent to the United Church of Canada in November 2020 and then to the government in October 2021. Sponsorship level approval was given in March 2022. This application has been held up in Jordan, along with many others, as processing times have increased substantially. OCRA members are seeking help from our local MP's office to get the visa processing going for this family.

### **3. Single Mother with 2 children plus son and family, from Syria, currently in Jordan**

This application is for a mother and two children from Syria, currently in Irbid, Jordan, and for her son and his family. The father of the family was taken by Syrian intelligence officials in 2012 and has not been heard from since. The mother helped her brothers and sisters, and their families, shelter in Damascus during the bombing of the southern suburbs. She then fled to Jordan where she has waited to be able to resettle in Canada and join her family members. The sponsorship applications for this group (3 applications) were prepared and sent to the United Church in mid-December 2021. It is expected that the applications will be submitted to IRCC in mid-December this year or early January 2023.

### **4. Family of 9 from Syria, currently in Jordan**

OCRA is assisting with this application for a large family of 9 from Syria, currently in Jordan, where conditions for refugees have deteriorated. The father in this family has work managing a store but will not be able to continue under the permitting system Jordan has placed on Syrians. Rations for refugees have been cut alongside UNHCR funding cuts. The application for this family was submitted to the United Church of Canada in September 2022. It is not known when sufficient spaces will be allocated by IRCC to the UCC to allow the application to be sent to the government.

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### VI. HOW ARE OUR OCRA FAMILIES DOING?

This section contains updates about our settled newcomers and will be added to our website as a permanent feature in the new year. Here is a sampling of the updates we have received so far.

#### 1. 2015 -2017 Arrivees

##### (a) Ayda

Ayda, a single mom with two adult daughters, arrived in Ottawa in December 2015 as OCRA's first refugee family. She has been a wonderful OCRA supporter ever since. Ayda started [Yasmin Syrian Cooking, Food From the Heart](#) within 18 months of arrival. Yasmin is a catering service specializing in Syrian and Mediterranean cuisine. It was started by a group of Syrian women who left their war-torn country and were welcomed as refugees into Canada. Here they have found safety, compassion, and the chance to build new lives. Ayda employs Syrian refugees and has become a sought - after place to work for Syrian women, plus a sought-after place for Syrian food catering across Ottawa. Ayda and her daughters became Canadian citizens in 2019.

##### (b) Amer and Najlaa

Amer and family arrived in early 2016. After taking ESL courses Amer worked for Uber for a few years, and then started his own business in stone masonry and landscape. He was able to make a go of this business during the pandemic and has been hired by the Ottawa Muslim Cemetery for their stonework needs. Amer and his wife Najlaa were able to buy a home in Orleans outside of Ottawa in 2021. Amer employs his brother-in-law and nephews who arrived in 2019. Amer and family became Canadian citizens in 2019. Najlaa completed her high school equivalency in 2022 and is considering what training at Algonquin College she needs for social work. A diversion from this is a new baby, who arrived in 2022 as well!

##### (c) Mbder

Mbder has trained as a mechanic and is trying to acquire the hours needed to be licensed. Mbder and his children became Canadian citizens in 2019.

##### (d) Sahar, Hekmat and Family

Sahar completed the English for Academic Purposes certificate at Algonquin College in 2019 and is enrolled in the Laboratory Diagnostician certification at Algonquin, doing her internship in the winter 2023 term. Sahar became a Canadian citizen in 2019 and her children became citizens in 2022. In between her Algonquin courses Sahar had a baby boy (2017) and a baby girl (2020). Hekmat has struggled to learn English but has excellent driving experience and an excellent sense of direction, having operated a large cargo truck in Syria before having to flee. Hekmat drives for Uber and Lyft for

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many hours each week and has managed to provide good support for his large and busy family, even during the pandemic. Oldest son Feraz is working part time at a mechanics shop while completing high school. He wants to attend college when he finishes. Sahar and Hekmat were able to buy a home south of Barrhaven outside Ottawa in late 2021.

### **(e) Alaa, Najlaa and family**

Alaa and Najlaa continue with their busy household and with their English courses. Alaa and the children became Canadian citizens in 2022. Najlaa is working hard on her English Level 4 to qualify for citizenship. Son Mohammad graduated from Glebe Collegiate in November 2021, the first person in his extended family to do so. Khaled Agha, Mohammad's older brother, completed the English for Academic Purposes course at Algonquin in 2019 and the Police Foundations course at Algonquin in 2021. Both Khaled and Mohammad are working in food services to save money for college courses.

### **(f) Shatha and Laila**

Shatha and Laila became Canadian citizens in 2020 and were able to travel to Germany to visit with their family at Christmas 2021, a very bright spot for them. As a woman over 50, Shatha has found it difficult to get employment with limited exposure to Western office work. Laila has found it difficult to get past the brutal separation of her family members and depends on her daughter quite a bit. Shatha began volunteering at St. Joe's Day Program for Homeless Women 1 day a week in 2022.

*Other Updates will be posted online in early 2023 as they become available.*

## **2. 2018 – 2022 Arrivees**

### **(a) Idris, Meryam and Family**

Idris, Meryam, Fatuma, Halima and Seida arrived in Ottawa from Ethiopia on December 6, 2018 and haven't looked back! Apart from the huge void left because they could not bring Ahmed, their eldest and only son, when they came, they gamely tried to understand the completely different new country where they had landed.

An application was soon made (March 2019) to bring Ahmed to Canada and the long wait for him began. Fatuma and Halima were enrolled at school, Halima was quickly provided the top-level medical care she needed for a heart condition, Idris learned how to navigate on the bus and go to language school. There was a tremendous amount to learn and get used to, it was not easy much of the time. The medical attention the family needed was significant and continued well past the sponsorship year.

Move forward to 2021 and Ahmed finally arrived from Ethiopia to reunite with his family. Meryam began to smile for photos. It was momentous for them to hold their teen-aged son, who they had not seen in over 5 years. Ahmed was enrolled at Woodroffe High School with Fatuma. Idris had completed his certificate in commercial food preparation and started to apprentice at Thyme and Again Catering in

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2021. He was able to get part time work there after completing the apprenticeship, and in 2022 began full time work.

Learning to drive took place in 2021 and Idris gleefully obtained his G licence in 2022. Fatuma and Ahmed are working part-time at Farm Boy, and both are cultivating a significant social media presence. Meryam has had wonderful coaching from **Cathy Wilcox and Leslie Scott** since 2019, and **Gerry Cooney and Pamela Walker** continue with the family as friends and to help where needed. Halima has fully recovered from the very big surgeries she had and is starting to do just fine at her new school.

Seida, who had terrified crying episodes when she first arrived, is now in Kindergarten and loving it, and has the sweet, engaged charm of a 5-year-old. This family has beat so many of the odds, even in Canada. Although there were huge bumps on the road, especially during their settlement year, they have truly settled well, and they can (and should) consider themselves a true success.

### **(b) Fatina and Nagham**

Fatina and Nagham arrived in June 2019. Fatina is the single mom of Nagham and they live together with Fatina's mother, Fatima. Fatima is the mother of Mbder Alabdullah and the sister of Alaa Agha, above. When she arrived in Canada Fatina was interested to improve her English, but also to understand how to make an independent life in Canada.

Fatina attended English classes after she arrived and started working in food services and a local restaurant, Isabella Pizza, after her first year. (Isabella Pizza is a great employer of OCRA newcomers and is highly recommended to all readers.) She, her mom and Nagham moved to a house with CCOC in Centretown in October 2020. She has taken on responsibility for her mom, the apartment where they live and the bill-paying. She wants to build a skill but did not get formal education past Grade 9 in Syria. She cannot afford full time attendance at the Adult High School or the HSE at Algonquin to get her high school certificate here.

To move towards a trade, Fatina is trying to get hours in a hair styling salon to both train and earn some money. This is a hard existence. Belying all this difficulty, Fatina is a gracious, lively person who loves life in a dramatic way. It is important to add that Fatina supports and is ambitious for her daughter Nagham, who has an independent streak, despite efforts at constraint by some of Nagham's uncles.

Nagham is Fatina Al Khateeb's daughter and is in Grade 12 at Glebe Collegiate. She will graduate from high school as the first person to do so in her extended family. Nagham has learned English while at high school through the ESL streams and is now in the mainstream courses in secondary school in her second language. This is difficult, but Nagham is determined to graduate. She feels great responsibility to help her family but does not want a traditional lifestyle or role. This has caused discussions with more conservative members of her family, although Nagham has stuck to her non-traditional mode of dress, continued her schooling and is working during holidays and weekends to save money for college textbooks. She is aiming for dental hygienist training at college.

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*Other 2018 – 2022 arrivals will be added online as they become available.*

### VII. OCRA NUMBERS SUMMARY

This report is longer than usual because OCRA has had a very busy year. Included on our website are reports on [OCRA finances](#), [the numbers of applications, refugees landed](#), all the [current sponsorships](#) and their costs, plus really interesting [opinion pieces and news](#). You can also see all our previous [Annual Reports](#). We do hope you visit the website when you have time. Any suggestions on what to add or consider as content would be greatly appreciated!

### VIII. CONCLUSION

We hope you have enjoyed this year's Annual Report, and we congratulate you for reading this far! We hope that you will consider a [donation](#) to support our Afghan doctor and human rights defender sponsorships. OCRA wishes all readers, supporters, volunteers, and friends the best of the holiday season and the best of 2023 as well.

